

A STUDY OF MALE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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Contributions of the Graduate School
Indiana State Teachers College
Number 95

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the
Master of Science Degree
in Education.

1933

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I. CRIME; ITS CAUSES

Until the last decade of the nineteenth century the criminal was treated as such without any consultation as to causes or cures. Lombroso, an Italian, was the first to give the subject any attention worthy of note.

A quotation from Lombroso's opening speech at the sixth congress of anthropology at Turin in April, 1906 states well his early opinion of causes of crime.

"In 1870 I was carrying on for several months researches in the prisons and asylums of Pavia upon cadavers and living persons in order to determine upon substantial differences between the insane and criminals, without succeeding very well. At last I found in the skull of a brigand a very long series of atavistic anomalies, above all an enormous middle occipital fossa and a hypertrophy of the vermis analogous to those that are found in inferior vertebrates. At the sight of these strange anomalies the problem of the nature and of the origin of the criminal seemed to me resolved; the characteristics of primitive men and of inferior animals must be reproduced in our times. Many facts seem to confirm this hypothesis, above all the psychology

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of the criminal; the frequency of tatooing and of professional slang; the passions as much more fleeting as they are more violent above all that of vengeance; the lack of foresight which resembles courage and courage which alternates with cowardice and idleness which alternates with passion for play and activity."¹

His first conception of the criminal then was that the criminal is an atavistic phenomenon reproducing a type of the past. Criminals were looked upon as having certain anatomical developments such as outstanding ears, abundant hair, a sparse beard, enormous frontal sinuses and jaws, a square and projecting chin, broad cheek bones, frequent gestures, in fact a type resembling the Mongolian and sometimes the negro.

In the first edition of his work Lombroso gave much weight to his anatomical and anthropology data since they were the most obvious and most easily obtainable. This excessive emphasis laid upon anatomical characteristics of the criminal lead him to distinguish but one type, the criminal as an atavistic phenomenon. The idea still exists that Lombroso recognized but one type of criminal who is the result of a single cause, namely,

¹
Lombroso, Crime; Its Causes and Remedies. p. iv

atavism.

In his later work he came to look upon crime as being a result of either atavism or arrested development. The analogies between the born criminal and the born imbecile on one hand and the epileptic and born criminal on the other hand mark the second stage in the development of his theory. Lombroso had changed his mind and no longer saw the born criminal as our atavistic return to the savage but now as a sick man, diseased and arrested in development.

The later opinion is here expressed. "Criminality is therefore an atavistic phenomenon which is provoked by morbid causes of which the fundamental manifestation is epilepsy. It is very true that criminality can be provoked by other diseases (hysteria, alcoholism, paralysis, insanity phrenosteria), but it is epilepsy which gives to it by its gravity the most extended basis".²

Our modern theory is that crime may be the result of one, or a combination of conditions in the life of the individual. These may be classed either as hereditary, environmental, or physical. Through heredity, he may acquire mentality that makes for criminality.

2

Lombroso, Crime; Its Causes and Remedies. p. ix

The moral imbecile is a good example of the hereditary criminal. As defined in the British statute, "Moral imbeciles are persons who from birth or from an early age display some permanent mental defect, coupled with strong, vicious, or criminal propensities on which punishment has had little or no deterrent effects."³

It would appear therefore that the hereditary criminal is one who because of hereditary mental defects is unable to obey social codes.

Causes of criminality due to environment may be classified as those within the home and those outside the home. Within the home there may be poverty which drives individuals to do antisocial acts to satisfy their desires; there may be defective family relationships which divide discipline; there may be defective discipline due to various causes; or there may be vicious practices.

Outside the home companionships may lead to mob violence or adult companions may wrongly direct younger people. Many times individuals have too much leisure which they have not been trained to use properly. Bad general working conditions and certain trades such as street trades for boys, seem to develop delinquency and

³

Burt, Cyril, The Young Delinquent. p. 29

make for criminal development.

Physical conditions such as underdevelopment or overgrowth have been noted as having a great influence upon criminal tendencies. The adolescent age is also known to aggravate the anti-social. Owing to the physical strain of growth, puberty, and adolescence, even the healthy young person may temporarily be in a somewhat abnormal and pathological state which in some cases may lead to criminal conduct, but will later pass on to a normal and healthy adulthood. If, however, the child has inherited any congenital weaknesses, he is much more likely to develop abnormal and pathological traits which may remain with him throughout life. These traits of childhood and early youth therefore, may or may not prove to be traits of adulthood as well. In other cases criminal conduct on the part of children may be due solely to ignorance and lack of suitable guidance.

II. HISTORY OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

A history of Juvenile Delinquency in Indiana reveals these facts.

In territorial days orphan children and those whose parents were too poor to support them were bound out as apprentices by the township overseers of the poor. "A definite provision to this effect is found in the laws of 1795."¹

The first institutional care for children appears to have been provided by the Catholic dioceses. "In 1833 the legislature granted a charter to Father S. T. Badin of South Bend to establish the St. Joseph Orphan's Asylum." "St. Ann's Asylum for girls was opened at Vincennes in 1894. It was afterward moved to Terre Haute and later closed." St. Vincent's Asylum for boys was opened in Vincennes in 1851 and in 1860 was moved to its present location, Highlands, three miles south of Vincennes.

"In 1903 the Juvenile court law was passed."² It provided a special court for childrens' cases in Marion County. In all other counties the judge of the circuit

¹
²Laws of Indiana 1833, p. 75
Acts of Indiana 1903, Pp. 516 517

court became exofficio judge of the juvenile court. Two years prior an informal juvenile court had been held by Honorable George W. Stubbs, judge of the Indianapolis Police Court. Under the law of 1903 he became the first juvenile judge.

In 1907 the juvenile court was given the sole authority to make dependent and neglected children public wards and to place them on public support. This power had previously been that of the township trustees, county commissioners, circuit judges, police judges, justices of the peace, and orphans' home associations. Many children were voluntarily released by their parents. "All this was changed by the dependent and neglected childrens' law of 1907."³

In 1921 the state created the State Juvenile Advisory Commission and provided for the appointment of a state probation officer by the governor to cooperate with and supervise the work of the local probation officers and to prescribe their qualifications.

In 1923 the judge of the juvenile court in Lake County was authorized to appoint a referee. "The law was extended in 1925 to include all counties of a

³

Acts of Indiana Legislature 1907, p.15, Acts 1923, p.109

population of 100,000 or more.

The preventative measures in juvenile delinquency in Indiana are the compulsory school attendance law and a law regulating conditions under which children may engage in gainful occupations.

Recreation laws are in two groups. There are special park and recreation laws for cities of first and second class. All cities of less than 45,000 population operate under a law passed in 1925 which is an enabling act authorizing the establishment of community and social centers and similar organizations.

III. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Delinquency is a social rather than a psychological concept.

A child is to be regarded technically as a delinquent when his antisocial tendencies appear so grave that he becomes or ought to become the subject of social action.

"In the eye of the law a child is a person under fourteen. A young person is one between fourteen and sixteen. A juvenile adult a person between seventeen and twenty-one and the measure of responsibility differs from stage to stage."¹ Up to the age of sixteen all children and young persons must be dealt with by a juvenile court. After that age offenders must be dealt with in the ordinary courts as adults.

These clean cut lines of chronological cleavage can hardly be accepted by the psychologist. For him it is not a date in a calendar, but the actual degree of development which makes one person a child, the second a juvenile, the third a grown up. It is a matter of mental rather than chronological age. The age of adolescence varies at the latter end and, therefore, there should be

¹

Burt, Cyril, The Young Delinquent p.15

a mental rather than a chronological basis for determining a juvenile.

Indiana law specifies that the word delinquent child shall include any boy under the full age of sixteen years and any girl under the full age of eighteen years:

1. Who shall violate any law of the state of Indiana or any ordinance of a city.
2. Or who knowingly associates with thieves or other vicious or immoral persons.
3. Or who is incorrigible.
4. Or who is growing up in idleness or crime.
5. Or who knowingly visits or patronizes any policy shop or place where any gaming device is or shall be operated.
6. Or who patronizes, visits or enters any saloon or wine room where intoxicating liquors are sold.
7. Or who knowingly patronizes, visits, or enters any public pool room or bucket shop.
8. Or who wanders about the streets of any city in the nighttime without being on any lawful business or occupation.
9. Or who wanders about in any railroad yard or upon any railroad track.
10. Or who jumps upon any moving train or enters

any car or engine without lawful authority.

11. Or who uses vile, obscene, vulgar, profane or indecent language.

12. Or who smokes cigarettes.

13. Or who loiters about any school building or school yard.

14. Or who is guilty of indecent or immoral conduct.

Any boy under the full age of sixteen or any girl under the full age of eighteen years who shall commit any act herein specified shall be deemed a delinquent child and shall be proceeded against as such in the manner provided by law for the prosecution of persons charged with misdemeanors and upon conviction thereof may be released on probation or may be dealt with by the court in such manner as may appear to be for the best interest of the child."²

"It is an act of delinquency for a girl under seventeen years of age to have illicit sexual intercourse."³

²

³ Burns Annotated Indiana Statutes Pp.1694-1695
169 Indiana Reports p.662

IV. CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Causes of juvenile delinquency may be classified under the heads of poverty, parentage and home life, lack of suitable recreational facilities, the criminal amient, and education and crime.

Poverty frequently means either that the child does not get enough food, or does not get the right kind. This may lead to a stunting of the physical development and is sure to weaken the resistance against disease and to strengthen predispositions to various physical and mental abnormalities. Poverty usually means a lack of facilities for mental education and may also mean a comparatively small amount of moral training.

In large cities poverty frequently leads to or is accompanied by a congestion of population. This means that the homes of the poor are crowded to such a degree as to be physically unhealthful, and mentally and morally degrading. Because of congestion, there is also such a lack of space and facilities for recreation, that children are forced to play in the street. They, consequently, have many opportunities to observe crime and are in danger of acquiring habits of vice. In some cases they fall under the influence of criminals who need the assist-

ance of young accomplices, and who wish to train them to be professional criminals who will work under their direction. Since the children of the poorer classes of society grow up amid unwholesome influences and great disadvantages it is not surprising that many become criminals, prostitutes, gamblers, drunkards, and violators of the laws in general.

In poor families both parents are frequently forced to work in order to earn enough to support the family. In such families the children are left much of the time without parental guidance and frequently without adult care of any kind. Unless restrained and wisely and sympathetically trained these children are likely to run wild, and will sooner or later get into mischief.

Furthermore, the children of the poor are frequently forced to go to work at a very early age in order to help support the family. Since the industrial revolution of the nineteenth century there has been an enormous amount of child labor which has not yet been prevented by legislation. It is difficult to secure statistical evidence of the influence of this child labor upon crime. Labor itself does not cause criminal conduct, but labor for children is very likely to stunt their growth and do them other physical injury. It is almost certain to

interfere with their education and consequently, to impede their mental development. Some occupations are very likely to bring young boys especially, under immoral and sometimes criminal influences as for example, the work of newsboys, peddlers, bootblacks, and messengers.

Many of the causes of juvenile criminality can be found in the parentage and home life of the children. Most of these causes can in turn be traced back to the economic and social factors previously discussed. Many parents, especially among the poor, are ignorant and are, therefore, incapable of giving their offspring wise guidance and training during their youth. Children of such parents are likely to go astray. A smaller number of parents furnish a bad example for their children, and in a few cases deliberately teach their children to be vicious and criminal. Some avaricious fathers and mothers force their children to work even when there is no need for their earnings. As has already been noted when both parents are forced to work, the children lose many of the benefits of home life.

Many homes are broken up in part or entirely by widowhood, desertion, divorce. Divorce probably does not have much effect upon crime because as a rule the economic well being of the children is not usually affected by divorce.

Although these children lose the influence of parental rearing, divorce is frequently to their advantage since they are benefited by being no longer obliged to observe the unhappy relationship arising out of the ill arranged union of their parents.

On the other hand children in families affected by widowhood and desertion, often develop criminal traits. This is not so likely to happen if the male parent is living, because ordinarily he is able to support his children despite the loss of maternal care. When the female parent is widowed or deserted, her position is usually much more precarious and difficult. Frequently she is forced to go out to work, during the day, leaving her children without proper care. Even then she is often not able to support herself and her children adequately. As a result the family becomes dependent at least in part, and in time may be broken up entirely.

The most complete breaking up of the family and of the home life comes when both parents are lost and the children are left orphans. If they are not then taken into the homes of relatives, or of interested persons, or into institutions, they are in great danger of embarking upon careers of vagrancy, prostitution, and crime.

Another factor in juvenile criminality which should

be considered in this connection is illegitimacy. "It has long been noted that there is a disproportionately high number of persons of illegitimate birth in prisons and reformatories and among prostitutes."¹ This is probably due in part to the fact that mentally defective persons and especially feeble-minded girls and women are much more likely to have illegitimate children than the mentally normal. Consequently there is a much higher percentage of mental defectiveness among the illegitimate than among the general population. Delinquency is also due to the fact that a bastard who almost invariably has the care of the maternal parent only, and frequently not even her, is in most cases brought up in dire poverty and lives under grave social disability which greatly hampers him in his childhood and youth.

Lack of suitable recreational facilities has caused much juvenile criminality. This has been especially true in the city since many a child has had only a street in which to play. Here he had been exposed to immoral and vicious suggestions and temptations. Here also, mob spirit is developed. Many children violate the law for the first time while playing in the street. Sometimes it was by

¹Parmelee, Maurice, Criminology p.20

playing a forbidden game, sometimes by breaking a window, or by thieving. These offenses which are frequently no more than childish pranks, are the result of children being forced to play in the street.

The criminal amient is found among the young as well as among adults, though in a good many cases the amentia does not make itself apparent until after childhood. The psychopathic criminal is found among the young but probably not so frequently as among adults inasmuch as many forms of insanity do not develop until later life. The percentage of professional criminals is, of course, low among the very young criminals who have not yet had enough practice to become professionals. But the percentage of occasional criminals is high, many of whom are on their way to become professionals.

There are many accidental criminals among the young but not many criminals by passion, since most of the serious acts of passion which constitute crimes are committed later in life when the powerful emotions of anger, jealousy, and envy, have attained their full development and receive greater stimuli to arouse them. Evolutive and political criminals are, of course, non-existent among children.

It goes without saying that one of the most

important factors in the rearing of a child is his education. This is to be acquired partly in the home, but more particularly in the school, which is the special agency of education. The first requisite in any efficient system of education is that the child be taught the nature of the world in which he lives in order that he may be able to orient himself. This means that he must be given at least a minimum amount of information from the sciences of physics, chemistry, astronomy, and geology, to enable him to understand the physical environment in which he lives. He must be taught biology and psychology to grasp the significance of the evolutionary processes and to understand in a measure his own nature and that of his fellows. He must be taught something of social evolution and given an understanding of social organization in order that he may know the nature of society in which he lives. This sound scientific basis is not apt to allow him to be mislead by animistic explanations or superstitious methods. This education teaches the child to be led by proven facts or truths and to know and fit himself into society on some scientific basis since he knows how he and society acts.

The child must also be given vocational training and an attempt must be made to keep him from drifting into aimless occupations. The satisfied worker does not become

the criminal.

The school and the home should give some training in etiquette of today which makes the individual move more easily in society.

It is impossible to measure the influence of education on criminality. Numerous statistics have been secured which indicate that the percentage of illiteracy among criminals is much higher than it is among the general population. This seems to indicate a casual relation between ignorance and criminality.

"The idea of giving children offenders different treatment than the older offenders goes back to the common law which presumed that the child under the age of seven was incapable of committing crime. Between seven and fourteen the child was recognized as having the possibility of discernment but the question of his responsibility might be raised and decided in accordance with the evidence. Beyond fourteen the common law recognized no distinction between the treatment of the child and adult."² Today the child is recognized as having traits peculiar to himself. Several traits recognized as peculiar to childhood are contained herein.

²

Furfey, Dr. Paul Hanley, Problems of Childhood p.87-88

The child is subject to the strain of growth which uses up much of his energy. The sexual instincts and feelings are almost entirely lacking during childhood. At the time of puberty comes a crisis due to the great changes caused by the awakening of the sexual nature, and throughout the period of adolescence while the sexual nature is coming to full maturity there is much instability of mind and character.

Owing to the lack of experience and education and moral training the child begins his life after birth in total ignorance and acquires knowledge and moral character to the extent that his congenital traits and the environment permit.

V. TREATMENT OF JUVENILE CASES

The Connecticut law of 1672 provided that if a child over sixteen years old and of sufficient understanding should "curse or smite his natural father or mother",¹ such a child must be put to death. Such laws were actually enforced.

A theory back of punishment according to Beccaria and others during the 18th century was that "the criminal commits his offense to secure an advantage. To stamp out crime it is only necessary to attach penalties that will out weigh any possible advantages to be derived from the criminal act."² Later it was decided that this theory had certain limitations because idiots and children were incapable of judging the consequences of their acts.

During the nineteenth century a new feeling expressed itself in founding juvenile courts. "John Stanford suggested such in 1812. In 1826 a House of Refuge was opened in New York, in 1826 one in Philadelphia. In 1900 the United States Bureau of Education reported 88 such institutions."³

¹

²Furfey, Dr Paul Hanley, Problems of Childhood p.88

³Ibid p.89-90

Ibid p.90

"In 1827 Illinois raised the common law age of responsibility from seven to ten. In 1833 Illinois prohibited the detention of persons in penitentiaries except for robbery, burglary, arson. Others could be sentenced to eighteen months in the county jail."⁴

"In 1849, John Augustus, a shoe maker of Boston, began his work of an informal probation officer in the courts. In 1878 the first probation law was passed in Massachusetts. No other state enacted similar legislation until 1899."⁵

"In 1899 the Illinois Juvenile Court Act was passed, and the first session of Cook County court was held. The Childrens' Bureau reported that in 1918 all cities of over one hundred thousand had specially organized childrens' courts. At present all states except Maine have juvenile courts of some kind."⁶

The establishment of special courts for juvenile cases after several tentative experiments, first in America and later in Great Britian, received legislative sanction following 1900. It is well to understand how children are treated in a juvenile court and what disposition a judge may make of any case.

⁴⁵Furfey, Dr Paul Hanley, Problems of Childhood. p.88⁶Ibid p.90⁶Ibid p.90-91

The Bureau of Juvenile Court Standards, United States Department of Labor, makes these recommendations concerning juvenile courts.

"There should be available in every community a court equipped to deal with children's cases. State laws determine whether it be independent. The juvenile court should be a court of superior jurisdiction and a court of record. The disposition of a child in a juvenile court or any evidence given in juvenile proceedings, should not be lawful evidence against the child in any civil, criminal, or other cause or proceeding in any other court.

In children's cases the proceeding should be chancery or equity, and not criminal in nature. The juvenile court should, however, be vested with criminal jurisdiction in adult cases such as contributing to delinquency and dependency of children.

The juvenile court should be vested with exclusive jurisdiction over the following cases:

(a) Children alleged to have violated laws or ordinances of the state or of any subdivision thereof, or children whose conduct or associations are alleged to have rendered them in need of the care and protection of the state. The juvenile court should not have power to waive jurisdiction and certify cases for trial in

another court.

(b) Children whose custody is to be determined by reason of their being in need of protection and supervision, homeless, abandoned, destitute, without proper parental care or guardianship, neglected or cruelly treated, or in surroundings dangerous to morals, health or general welfare.

(c) Adoption cases.

(d) Children in need of protection or custodial care by reason of mental defect or disorder.

(e) Violation of school attendance laws beyond the provision for control by school administration.

(f) Contributing to delinquency or dependency.

(g) Nonsupport or desertion of minor children.

(h) The determination of paternity and support of children born out of wedlock.

(i) The age limit under which the court may obtain jurisdiction should not be lower than 18 years. Marriage of the child should not terminate jurisdiction. Jurisdiction once obtained should continue until 21 years of age unless the case is sooner dismissed or passed out of the jurisdiction of the court.

The judge should be chosen because of his special qualification for juvenile court work.

The tenure of office should be sufficiently long to warrant special preparatory studies and the development of special interest in juvenile work, preferably not less than six years.

The judge should be able to devote such time to juvenile work as is necessary to keep detention at a minimum, to hear each case carefully and thoroughly, and to give general direction to the work of the court.

Detention should be limited to children for whom it is absolutely necessary such as:

(a) Children whose home condition make immediate removal necessary.

(b) Children who have committed offenses so serious that their release pending the disposition of their case would endanger public safety.

(c) Children who are beyond the control of their parents or guardians, runaways, and those whose parents cannot be relied upon to produce them in court.

(d) Children who must be held as witnesses.

(e) Children whose detention is necessary for purposes of observation and study and treatment by qualified experts. Children should not be detained in jails or police stations."⁷

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U. S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau,
Juvenile Court Standards, Bureau Publication
No. 121 May 18, 1923

Indiana law makes provision for special trials for juvenile delinquents. "All trials of such children as are affected by this act shall be held in chambers in the juvenile court room or the judge may hear the case in vacation. The judge of such court shall designate a certain time for the trial of such cases, and is hereby empowered to exclude from the courtroom at such trials any and all persons that in his opinion are not necessary for the trial of the case. The probation officer shall be present at every trial in the interest of the child on trial."⁸

Custody of the child pending trial has had special provision. "No court or magistrate or peace officer shall place a child under 14 years in any jail or police station or lock up pending trial but if such child is unable to give bail it may be placed in the care of the sheriff, police matron or probation officer, who shall keep such child in some suitable place, provided by the county, pending the final disposition of its case."⁹

Following the hearing if, upon opinion of the judge, the child is guilty of the offense with which charged he may

⁸⁹Burns Annotated Indiana Statutes Vol. 1 p.1705Ibid., Vol. 1 p.1705

1. "Withhold judgment for a definite or indefinite period if it appears that the public interest and the interest of the child will be best subserved thereby, and may order that such child be returned to his or her parents, guardian, or friends.

2. Or he may commit such child to the care of a volunteer probation officer who shall exercise supervision over it until such time as it is discharged by the court from further supervision upon the recommendation of such volunteer probation officer.

3. Or the court or the judge thereof sitting in vacation may order such child to be placed in the family of some suitable person where such family home shall be recommended by the probation officer of the court, there to remain until he or she shall have attained the age of twenty one years or for any less time.

4. Or the court or the judge thereof sitting in vacation may order such child to be placed in the home where the counties dependent children are kept.

5. Or if it appears to be for the best interest of such child and such child appears to be in need of institutional training, the court, or the judge thereof sitting in vacation, may order him or her to be committed to some institution managed by a corporation or by an

individual, and devoted to the care of such children, for a definite or indefinite period, said institution to be situated in the state of Indiana and to be inspected at least once a year and approved by the state charities and to receive for its services a per-diem of not to exceed thirty-five cents for each day such child may be in its custody, said per-diem to be paid by the county sending the child upon itemized vouchers duly certified by the court.

6. Or the court or the judge thereof sitting in vacation, may impose a fine with costs.

7. Or the court may, for a good cause shown suspend judgment in any case for a definite or indefinite period.

8. Or if the offense be malicious trespass the court or the judge thereof sitting in vacation may require the damage to be made good.

9. Or if the offense be petit larceny, and the stolen property be not restored, the court or the judge sitting in vacation may request it to be paid for by the defendant himself, if it be shown that he is capable of earning money or has money of his own."¹⁰

¹⁰

Acts of Indiana Legislature 1903 p.516

VI. STUDY OF DELINQUENCY IN TERRE HAUTE

A study of boy delinquents that have juvenile court records in Terre Haute, Indiana reveals some interesting facts. These records for 1929 and the first eight months of 1930 furnished the material for this study. The study includes 165 cases for 1929, and 130 cases for the period of 1930. The records gave information concerning parental conditions, retardation in school, offense committed, school being attended by the delinquent, and ages of the boys when the offense was committed. Information was not complete for all of these in each individual case so the number of cases in each study will not equal the number of boy delinquents.

Mr. Bailey, juvenile probation officer of Terre Haute, Indiana and his staff gave much assistance and information in conducting the research, and to them I am much indebted.

The records for 1929 gave information of parental conditions for 160 of the 165 cases studied for that year. Eighty-four boys, or 52.5 per cent, had both parents living at home; twelve, or 7.6 per cent, had neither parent; thirty-two or 20 per cent, had only a mother at home; sixteen, or 10 per cent, had a stepfather and mother. The records

TABLE I
PARENTAL INFORMATION AND CHRONOLOGICAL AGES
FOR 160 TERRE HAUTE BOY DELINQUENTS
FOR 1929

	Ages												No age given	Total
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Both parents living			2	11	7	13	14	25	10	3			84	
Neither parent living				1	2		4	2	2		1		12	
Mother only			1	3	4	4	4	9	3	4			32	
Father only			1		1		4	4	2	1		4	16	
Step-father and mother	1				1	2	6	3				1	16	
Step-mother and father														
Totals	1		4	15	15	19	32	43	17	8	1	5	160	

TABLE II

PARENTAL INFORMATION AND CHRONOLOGICAL AGES

FOR 128 TERRE HAUTE BOY DELINQUENTS

FOR FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF

1930

	Ages												Total
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Both parents living				2	2	9	8	7	12	17	14	6	77
Neither parent living								1	2	1	2		6
Mother only						1	2	2	3	3	3		14
Father only	1		1	1		1	3	5	3	1	1	1	18
Step-mother and father							1			1			2
Step-father and mother						1		1		3	1	3	9
Parents in prison					1						1		2
Totals	1		1	3	3	12	14	16	20	26	22	10	128

revealed no one having a stepmother and father being brought to the probation office during 1929.

For the year 1930 the records revealed parental information for 128 cases. Of these seventy-seven, or 60 per cent, had both parents; six, or 5.2 per cent, had neither parent; fourteen, or 13.2 per cent, had only a mother living; eighteen, or 14 per cent, had only a father; two, or 2 per cent, had a stepmother and father; nine, or 7.7 per cent, had a stepfather and mother; and two, or 2 per cent, had both parents in prison.

Tables Number I and II reveal the information of parentage of the delinquent boys for the period studied.

George B. Mangold in making a similar study in St. Louis reported: "Out of 10,000 delinquent children concerning whom the parental conditions were known and who entered the St. Louis courts during the years 1916-1920; 51.9 per cent had both parents living together; 11.5 per cent had parents separated or divorced; 25.5 per cent were orphans or half orphans; and 11.1 per cent lived with step parents."^I

In making this study an attempt was made to show whether the boys with juvenile court records were retarded

I

Mangold, George B. Problems Of Child Welfare p.406-407

TABLE III

GRADE STANDING IN SCHOOL AND CHRONOLOGICAL AGES
OF 106 TERRE HAUTE DELINQUENTS FOR
1929

Age	Grades												Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
8													
9													
10		1	2		1								4
11			1		3	1							5
12			2		7	3	2	1					15
13			1	1	4	6	4	2	1				19
14				3	2	2	7	6	10				30
15					1	2	4	5	7	2			21
16					2	2		3	3				10
17					1								1
18					1								1
Totals	1	6	4	22	16	17	17	21	2				106

TABLE IV

GRADE STANDING IN SCHOOL AND CHRONOLOGICAL AGES
OF 116 BOY DELINQUENTS FOR FIRST EIGHT
MONTHS OF
1930

Grades													
Age	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
8		1											1
9			2	1									3
10			1	1									2
11			1	7	1	2		1					12
12			2	4	4	3	2						15
13	1		1		1	5	3	1	2				14
14				3	1	6	7	2	1				20
15						4	3	2	14	1			24
16						1	2	4	8	4	1		20
17								1	2	1	1		5
Totals	1	1	7	16	7	21	17	11	27	6	2		116

regular or accelerated in school grades. Tables III and IV contain such information and show most of the boys to be subnormal in this respect.

In making this comparison it was necessary that some standards be accepted in order that a comparison might be made and some conclusions established. The standard for judging was fixed in the following manner. Normal boys were considered to be in classes according to chronological ages as follows: six-year-olds were in the first grade, seven-year-olds in the second grade, eight-year-olds in the third grade, nine-year-olds in the fourth grade, ten-year-olds in the fifth grade, eleven-year-olds in the sixth grade, twelve-year-olds in the seventh grade, thirteen-year-olds in the eighth grade, fourteen-year-olds in the ninth grade, fifteen-year-olds in the tenth grade, sixteen-year-olds in the eleventh grade, and seventeen-year-olds in the twelfth grade. The comparison was completed by showing the boys to be either in a class of ages younger than themselves and thus retarded, in a class of their own ages, or in a class of boys older than themselves and thus accelerated.

From the juvenile court records for 1929 it was possible to formulate Table III which gave the school grade standing for 106 delinquent boys. Classification on basis of the scale stated in the previous paragraph shows

TABLE V

DELINQUENT OFFENSES COMMITTED AND CHRONOLOGICAL
AGE WHEN IN JUVENILE COURT FOR CASES OF 1929

Offense	Ages									Total
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	No age given	
Petit larceny	1	2	5	2	8	7	4	3	1	33
Larceny	2	2	2	5	7	8				26
Runaway from home			2	2	4	3	1		3	15
Truancy		2		4	3	6	3			18
Burglary	1	4			3	2	2	1		13
Disorderly conduct				5	4	2	2			13
Trespass			1		2	2		1	4	10
Incorrigibility			2	1	3	2	1			9
Malicious destruction		1		1	1	1			1	5
Receiving stolen property			2	2			1			5
Auto stealing				1		1		2		4
Cigarette smoking									4	4
Pulling fire alarms			1	1						2
Carrying fire arms			1			1				2
Immoral conduct		1		1						2
Delinquency						2				2
Possessing liquor							1			1
Attempt to rob					1					1
Totals	4	12	16	25	36	37	15	7	13	165

that two boys were advanced one year; 18 were normal; 23 were retarded one year; 30 were retarded two years; 15 were retarded three years; 7 were retarded four years; 7 were retarded five years; 2 were retarded six years; 1 was retarded seven years; and one boy was retarded eight years.

The court records for the first eight months of 1930 gave the grade standing in school for 116 boys. Of this number one was advanced two years; one was advanced one year; nine were normal; thirty-two were retarded one year; thirty-five were retarded two years; twenty-one were retarded three years; ten were retarded four years; five were retarded five years, and one was retarded seven years.

The court records listed for each case of delinquency the offense committed by the boy and his chronological age at the time it was committed. During the year 1929 there were 165 boys taken to the probation office. Table Number V gives a classification of offenses and ages of boys at the time of each. Of the 165 cases thirty-three, or 19.6 per cent, were for petit larceny; twenty-six cases, or 15.8 per cent, were for larceny; eighteen cases, or 10.7 per cent, were for running away from home; fifteen cases, or 9 per cent, were for truancy; thirteen cases, or 7.8 per cent, were for burglary; and thirteen, or 7.8 per cent, were for

TABLE VI

DELINQUENT OFFENSES COMMITTED AND CHRONOLOGICAL
AGES WHEN IN JUVENILE COURT FOR CASES
OF FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1930

Offense													
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total	
Petit larceny		1		1	3	1	2	7	2	1		18	
Disorderly conduct	1	1	1	1	4	3	5	4	10	2		32	
Incorrigible	1			4	2	2	3	1	3	1		17	
Truancy						1	4	5	1			11	
Larceny			1	3		2	1		1	1		9	
Runaway						2	2	1		2		7	
Burglary		1	1	1				2	1			6	
Disobedient					1	3		2				6	
Trespass					1	1	2	2	1			7	
Receiving stolen goods					1		1		1	2		5	
Destroying property				1	1			3				5	
Vehicle taking						1			1	1		3	
Indecent				1	1				1			3	
Assault and battery											1	1	
Totals	2	3	3	12	14	16	20	27	22	10	1	130	

TABLE VII

DISTRIBUTION OF DELINQUENT CASES OF BOYS FOR
1929 AMONG TERRE HAUTE'S SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	Ages										Total
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Gerstmeyer					3	6	3			12	
Woodrow Wilson			1	1	8	3				13	
McLean			1	2	5	2				10	
Hook			1	1	3	1	2			8	
Glenn			2	1	1				1	5	
Rea		1	1	1	1	1				5	
Harrison		2			1	1	1			5	
Rankin				3		1		1		5	
Sarah Scott				1	2	2				5	
Fairbanks			3	1						4	
Davis Park		1	1	1	1					4	
Washington			2	1		1				4	
All other	4	1	3	6	5	3	4			26	
Totals	4	5	15	19	30	21	10	1	1	106	

TABLE VIII

DISTRIBUTION OF DELINQUENT CASES FOR 1930 AMONG
TERRE HAUTE'S SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	Ages										Total
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Gerstmeyer								10	9		19
Hook	1			4	2	2	2	3			14
Washington				1	2	3	1	1	1		9
McLean							5	3	1	1	10
Sacred Heart		1	1	1	2		3				8
Glenn						3	2	1	1		7
All other		2	1	6	8	6	6	7	8	5	49
Total	1	3	2	12	14	14	19	25	20	6	116

disorderly conduct.

Table VI reveals the fact that 130 boys were taken to the probation office during the first eight months of 1930. Of this number eighteen cases, or 13.8 per cent, were for petit larceny; thirty-two cases, or 27.8 per cent, were for disorderly conduct; seventeen cases, or 13 per cent, were for incorrigibility; and eleven cases, or 8.5 per cent, were for truancy.

These records, revealing the nature of delinquent cases, are too few to arrive at any conclusions as to the offenses responsible for the most delinquency among boys. One generality arrived at from the facts would tend to show that no particular offense is the cause of even a majority of the cases. The outstanding offenses among the cases of larceny were bicycle stealing ranging first and auto stealing ranging second.

In this study the distribution of the delinquents among the Terre Haute schools has been shown. Table VII shows these facts for the delinquents of the year 1929, and Table VIII for the first eight months of 1930. Gerstmeyer leads the high schools in number of delinquents, Woodrow Wilson Junior High school leads the junior high schools in number, and Hook school leads the grade schools in number of delinquents. The fact that Gerstmeyer is the

TABLE IX

SECOND OFFENDERS AMONG TERRE HAUTE'S BOY
DELINQUENTS FOR 1929

Offense	Ages							Total
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Larceny	1		1		4		1	7
Truancy	1			1		1		3
Receiving stolen goods				1	1			2
Disorderly conduct						2		2
Petit larceny				1	3			4
Intended robbery					1			1
Pulling fire alarm			1					1
Runaway from home		1						1
Totals	2	1	2	3	9	3	1	21

TABLE X

THIRD OFFENDERS AMONG TERRE HAUTE'S BOY
DELINQUENTS FOR 1929

Offense	Ages									Totals
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Larceny	1			1	1	3				6
Disorderly conduct				2						2
Truancy	1				1	1				3
Trespass				1						1
Totals	2			4	2	4				12

city's technical high school probably accounts for its getting a great number of social misfits. Many boys in so called technical courses are there because the compulsory age law keeps them in school, and this is their choice of what to them are school evils. Other schools rating high in delinquents are located in parts of the city where the element furnishing the most delinquents live.

In checking over the delinquents, records of more than one-time offenders were noted. Tables IX and X give these facts for those brought into the office for second and third offenses during 1929. Table IX shows twenty-one boys to have been brought into the office the second time and Table X shows twelve brought for the third offense. One boy was four times an offender for truancy. Judging from these facts the probation office is proving successful in influencing boys who have once visited the office, to correct their ways. With a proper follow up program of boy activities, delinquency could be reduced to a minimum.

An interesting feature of the study was to note the ages of the various boys at the time they became offenders. During the year 1929 there were 165 boys in the office. Of this number 39 boys, or 23.3 per cent, were fifteen years of age; 36 boys, or 21.4 per cent, were fourteen years of age; 25 boys, or 15 per cent, were thirteen years of age,

and 15 boys, or 9 per cent, were 16 years of age. These four ages, 13, 14, 15, and 16 years, furnished 68.7 per cent of the boys brought into the probation office in 1929. Petit larceny, larceny, running away, truancy, burglary, and disorderly conduct were 73.7 per cent of all offenses committed.

For 1930 twenty-two, or 16 per cent of all boys committing offenses in Terre Haute, were 16 years old; twenty-seven boys, or 20.8 per cent, were 15 years of age; twenty, or 15.4 per cent, were 14 years of age; and sixteen, or 10.3 per cent, were 13 years of age. These ages furnished 63.4 per cent of Terre Haute's 130 boy criminals for the first eight months of the year.

Evaluation of the facts listed in the various tables will be reserved for conclusions to be drawn following a study of the scholastic records of a number of these delinquents and a comparison of their records with those of pupils in the same school will be made.

VII. COMPARATIVE SCHOLASTIC STANDING
OF DELINQUENT BOYS

Although in the preceding chapter it was proved that the delinquents were greatly retarded, a study of their scholastic attainments and a comparison of such records with a sampling of others from the same school gives one a better chance to formulate opinions of their mental abilities. This study was necessarily a comparison of scholastic records. The various schools under consideration give intelligence tests to pupils for classification purposes, but they do not keep these records filed so that they are accessible.

Scholastic records for forty-one delinquent boys from Gerstmeyer, Woodrow Wilson, Sarah Scott, and various other schools were obtained, and the data secured are listed in a series of tables to be found throughout this chapter. Other tables also, are given relating the same facts concerning a sampling from the records of non-delinquent boys from Gerstmeyer, Woodrow Wilson, and Sarah Scott schools. In order to make a comparison of the scholastic records of the two groups of pupils, records of the non-delinquent pupils were drawn at random from the files until they equalled the number of records of delinquent pupils from that school.

TABLE XI

SCHOLASTIC RECORDS OF FIVE DELINQUENT BOYS
FROM SARAH SCOTT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

-----Pupil No.-----							
Mark	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Percentage
95-100		7	3	2	5	17	9.1
90-94.99	6	19	22	13	17	77	41.1
80-89.99	7	21	23	10	11	72	38.5
75-79.99	7		3	2	7	19	10.2
75-			2			2	1.1
Median	85.	90.7	89.5	90.7	90.7	90.	

TABLE XII

SCHOLASTIC RECORDS OF FIVE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS
NOT DELINQUENTS FROM SARAH SCOTT

Mark	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Percentage
95-100	3	5	2			10	13.9
90-94.99	3	9	2		4	18	25.
80-89.99	7		4	6	7	24	33.3
75-79.99	3		4	8	2	17	23.6
75-			2		1	3	4.2
Median	87.8	94.1	83.9	79.7	86.4	86.8	

The school records in the city are kept by letters and those used are A, B, C, D, and F. Interpretations in form of percentage are given for these various letters. A's are 95 per cent to 100 per cent, B's 90 per cent to 95 per cent, C's 80 per cent to 90 per cent, D's 75 per cent to 80 per cent, and F's are those below 75 per cent. In completing the tables, medians were figured in each case. To figure the median the records falling within any interval were figured as continuous, and F's were considered to fall between 70 per cent and 75 per cent in cases in which the median fell within that interval.

Scholastic records for thirteen delinquent boys from Gerstmeier High School and the same number from Woodrow Wilson Junior High School were organized in tables and compared with a like number of non-delinquent students from each school. Five delinquent boys from Sarah Scott School were likewise compared with five non-delinquents from that school. The remaining students from various Terre Haute schools were compared to the median, high, and low pupils from totals of the sampling.

Since the delinquents from Sarah Scott school are exceptionally high in scholastic attainments, first consideration will be given to them. Tables XI and XII list the information for delinquent and non-delinquent

pupils from Sarah Scott. The lowest median for a pupil of this group is 85 per cent; the highest is 90.7 per cent; and the median for the group of five is 90 per cent. This school was able to furnish I. Q. ratings for four of the five boys. They rated 94, 95, 105, 118. Offenses committed by these boys were of a very minor nature, two of them being for climbing on top the school building. Due to the fact that they were not really criminally inclined probably answers in part for their high scholastic attainments.

The lowest median mark for the non-delinquent group, from Sarah Scott School was 79.7 per cent, the highest 94.1 per cent and the median of the group was 86.8 per cent.

A further comparison shows the non-delinquent group to have earned ten A's, eighteen B's, twenty-four C's, seventeen D's and three F's, and the delinquent group to have earned seventeen A's, seventy-seven B's, seventy-two C's, nineteen D's, and two F's. The delinquent group had 9.1 per cent A's, 41.1 per cent B's, 38.5 per cent C's, 10.2 per cent D's, and 1.1 per cent F's. The non-delinquent group had 13.9 per cent A's, 25 per cent B's, 33.3 per cent C's, 23.6 per cent D's, and 4.2 per cent F's. It is readily seen that fifty per cent of the marks of the delinquent group were A's and B's, but only about forty per cent of the non-

TABLE XIII

SCHOLASTIC RECORDS OF THIRTEEN DELINQUENT BOYS FROM
GERSTMAYER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

	Pupil No.														
Mark	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total	Per cent
95-100						1						1	1	3	2.7
90-94.99	1					2	4					1		8	6.7
80-89.99			3			6	5	4	2			2	1	23	19.3
75-79.99	3		9	4	5		1	8	2	6	1	1	2	39	32.7
75-	1	8	4	4	3	3		1	6	6	5		5	46	38.6
Median	77.5	71.5	77.5	75.6	76.5	85.8	89	78.7	78.5	75.4	73.5	90	75	76.8	

TABLE XIV

SCHOLASTIC RECORDS OF THIRTEEN HIGH SCHOOL BOYS NOT
DELINQUENTS FROM GERSTMAYER

Mark	Pupil No.													Total	Per cent
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
95-100		5	6	10	2	10	1	3		6	2	7	3	55	16.8
90-94.99			13	18		9	7	7	14	15	5	8	7	105	32.2
80-89.99	2	4	12	9	1	13	5	4	10	5	18	19	19	121	37.2
75-79.99	8		1		8		2		1	1	6	4	7	38	11.7
75-	1				2		1		1			1	1	7	2.1
Median	78.1	95	91.3	92.8	78.1	91.9	90.3	92.5	90.5	92.7	82.7	87.9	85.7	89.8	

delinquent group were A's and B's. One and one-tenth per cent of the marks for the delinquent group were F's and four and two-tenths per cent of the non-delinquent group were F's.

This record from Sarah Scott school we will see is quite an exception to the general rule of delinquents and non-delinquents in the Terre Haute schools.

Scholastic records for the remaining pupils in this study will reveal a very different story from the case just related. Scholastic records were obtained for thirteen delinquent and a like number of non-delinquent boys from Gerstmeyer High School. Tables XIII and XIV record these facts. In the delinquent group the lowest median mark is 73.5 per cent, the highest median mark is 90 per cent, and the median mark for the entire group is 76.8 per cent. The lowest median mark for the non-delinquent group from Gerstmeyer is 78.1 per cent, the highest median mark is 92.8 per cent, and the median mark for the group is 89.8 per cent. This median of 89.8 per cent compared with the median of the delinquent group of 76.8 per cent shows that the delinquents are subnormals in most cases.

The non-delinquent group had 16.8 per cent A's, 32.2 per cent B's, 37.2 per cent C's, 11.7 per cent D's, and 2.1 per cent F's. The delinquent group had 2.7 per cent A's,

TABLE XV

SCHOLASTIC GRADES FOR THIRTEEN DELINQUENTS FROM
WOODROW WILSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

	Pupil No.														
Mark	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total	Per cent
95-100	4		3	6				5	1	1	1	3		24	5.6
90-94.99	6	1	4	10	5	10	3	7	5	16	11	13	2	93	21.2
80-89.99	11	1	9	11	7	21	5	13	23	19	17	16	7	160	37.6
75-79.99	9	22	7	5	10	12	7	10	3	8	12	9	9	123	28.9
75-	1	6	8		2		1	1			1	2	4	26	6.1
Median	85.4	77.2	81.7	90.2	80.7	84.7	81	85.7	85.8	89.6	85	84.2	79.1	85	

TABLE XVI

A SAMPLING OF RECORDS FROM WOODROW WILSON
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mark	Pupil No.													Total	Per cent
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
95-100		12	10	8		2	2	6		18	4	6	6	74	23.5
90-94.99	6	10	12	8	6	6	6	6	8	6	16	2	6	98	31.2
80-89.99	14	2	2	8	10	8	12	12	4		4	14	14	104	33.1
75-79.99	4			2	8	6			8			6	2	36	11.5
75-						2								2	7
Median	86.1	95.2	94.6	92.2	84.5	85.6	88.7	90.4	86.2	96.8	92.8	86.1	84.4	90.8	

6.7 per cent B's, 19.3 per cent C's, 32.7 per cent D's, and 38.6 per cent F's. In case of the non-delinquent group, 49 per cent had A and B marks and 2.1 per cent F's, while with the delinquent group only 10.4 per cent had A and B marks and 38.6 per cent were F's. Recalling that, as shown by a study of the previous chapter, delinquent boys are much retarded, these facts become more appalling than ever.

The study of scholastic records from Woodrow Wilson Junour High School are given in Table XV for delinquents and Table XVI for non-delinquents. The facts in these cases, although not showing so great a range as in the cases at Gerstmeyer continue to show intelligence deficiency in the delinquent group.

In the case at Woodrow Wilson for the delinquent group the lowest median mark was 77.2 per cent, the highest median mark was 90.2 per cent, and the median for the entire group was 85 per cent. For the non-delinquent group the lowest median mark was 84.4 per cent, the highest median mark 96.8 per cent, and the median for the group was 90.8 per cent. The non-delinquent group had 23.5 per cent A's, 31.2 per cent B's, 33.1 per cent C's, 11.5 per cent D's, and .7 per cent F's, while the delinquent group had 5.6 per cent A's, 21.2 per cent B's, 37.6 per cent C's, 28.9 per cent D's, and 6.1

TABLE XVII

SCHOLASTIC RECORDS OF DELINQUENT BOYS FROM
OTHER SCHOOLS

Mark	Pupil No.													Total	Per cent
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
95-100				1	2		1			1				5	2.7
90-94.99				12	4	4	1	3		2				26	14.1
80-89.99	1			3	15	30	5	4	2	6	6			72	39.1
75-79.99		1			16	17	6	12	4	3	1			61	33.1
75-			1		3	3	1	4	6		3			20	11.
Median	85	77.5	72.5	92.2	81	82.5	80.5	78.3	75.6	85.8	82.5			81.6	

TABLE XVIII

SUMMATION OF SCHOLASTIC GRADES MADE BY DELINQUENT
BOYS IN TERRE HAUTE SCHOOLS

Mark	Woodrow Wilson	Gerstmeyer High School	Sarah Scott	Other Schools	Total	Percentage
95-100	24	3	17	5	49	5.3
90-94.99	93	8	77	26	204	22.3
80-89.99	160	23	72	72	327	35.7
75-79.99	123	39	19	61	242	26.4
75-	26	46	2	20	94	10.3
Median	85	76.8	90	81.6	83.7	100.

TABLE XIX

SUMMATION OF THE SAMPLING OF SCHOLASTIC GRADES
OF NON-DELINQUENTS FROM TERRE HAUTE SCHOOLS

Mark	SCHOOL			Total	Percentage
	Woodrow Wilson	Gerstmeyer High School	Sarah Scott School		
95-100	74	55	10	139	19.5
90-94.99	98	105	18	221	31.
80-89.99	104	121	24	249	35
75-79.99	36	38	17	91	12.8
75-	2	7	3	12	1.7
Median	90.8	89.8	86.8	90.1	100.

per cent F's. These figures also show a marked difference between the two groups, and they show that the non-delinquents are far superior.

Scholastic records were obtained for eleven delinquent boys scattered among various other schools of Terre Haute. These records are given in Table XVII. As a basis of comparison these records are compared with the entire records for non-delinquents from Gerstmeyer, Woodrow Wilson, and Sarah Scott schools.

The lowest median mark for this group from various schools was 72.5 per cent, the highest median 92.2 per cent, and the median for the group 81.6 per cent. The lowest median individual mark for the entire non-delinquent group of boys was the low median at Gerstmeyer of 78.1 per cent, and the highest median individual mark was the high median at Woodrow Wilson of 96.8 per cent. The average median mark for the entire group was 90.1 per cent. The entire delinquent group from all other schools had 2.7 per cent A's, 14.1 per cent B's, 39.1 per cent C's, 33.1 per cent D's, and 11 per cent F's. All the non-delinquent group had 19.5 per cent A's, 31 per cent B's, 35 per cent C's, 13.8 per cent D's, and 1.7 per cent F's.

Tables XVIII and XIX are a totaling of the information gathered concerning delinquent and non-delinquent boys

in Terre Haute. In these tables we find that the delinquents made 5.3 per cent A's, and the non-delinquents made 19.5 per cent A's. The delinquents made 22.3 per cent B's, and the non-delinquents made 31 per cent B's. The delinquents made 35.7 per cent C's, and the non-delinquents made 35 per cent C's. The delinquents made 26.4 per cent D's, and the non-delinquents made 12.8 per cent D's. The delinquents made 10.3 per cent F's, and the non-delinquents made 1.7 per cent F's.

A comparison of median marks for the delinquent and non-delinquent groups shows the former at 83.7 per cent and the latter at 90.1 per cent.

In the comparison of the scholastic standing of the boys in all the schools with the exception of Sarah Scott School pupils the delinquent group has the lowest scholastic rating; the difference being so great that when the Sarah Scott School figures are used in the final totaling, the delinquent group still have the lowest scholastic standing. Some other facts such as comparison of low delinquent pupil with low non-delinquent pupil, high delinquent pupil with high non-delinquent pupil and comparison of marks of delinquent pupils with non-delinquent pupils of the same chronological ages show an equal variation in scholastic abilities.

VIII. SOME CONCLUSIONS

We do not know precisely how many adolescents are delinquent or criminal. Mangold estimates that "more than one hundred thousand children are brought before juvenile and other courts annually and that the number of delinquents receiving some form of social attention each year is greater than the number brought into court."¹ We have some statistical evidence that juvenile delinquency is not on the increase. At least smaller proportions of the population were committed to various institutions in 1923 than in 1910. Table XX, containing facts taken from United States Census Reports, bears me out on this point.

Delinquency resulting in commitment to jail, reformatory, or other institution for juveniles is more common among the older adolescents, and as we would expect, about three fourths of these delinquents are boys. The most common offenses are burglary and larceny, disorderly conduct, incorrigibility, truancy and vagrancy.

Changing social conditions is to a very great extent responsible for juvenile delinquency. Boys are instinct-

¹ Mangold, George B. Problems Of Child Welfare p.416

TABLE XX

"COMMITMENTS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS DURING THE
YEAR 1910 AND THE YEAR 1923"²

Age	Number in 1910	Ratio per 100,000 of same age	Number in 1923	Ratio per 100,000 of same age
Under 10	568	2.8	344	1.8
10 to 17	24,854	171.6	25,565	156.5
18 to 20	35,697	643.6	31,086	562.9
21 to 24	64,221	891.7	52,766	703.9

²

Prisoners and delinquents in The United States in
1910, Bureau of Census 1918, Statistical Abstract of
United States Census, 1925.

ively playful individuals. Rural children have sufficient space for play. Complex society today has made conditions different. Today a boy plays ball in the street or alley and destroys property making himself a delinquent. Many other similar examples might be given showing how this one change in social living makes for delinquency.

Boys break laws for lack of leadership of the right sort. The boy seeking adventure for his leisure hours looks to see where he will find it. He may hear in the schoolroom about an apparently harmless group of boys who loiter on the corner, in a drug or candy store, or he hears about one that meets in a hallway. He meets the group in its accustomed place of assembly. They indulge in unrestrained discussion upon topics boys naturally talk about. They play a slot machine or cards for small stakes or, perhaps, devise means to cheat some minor law. This is a very plain case of undirected leisure time. As a result some of these boys become delinquent.

Warden Lawes of Sing Sing Prison has said, "It avail-eth nothing to decry the pool hall, public dance hall, and gang hangouts which tend to throw the young out of adjustment with society's requirements, if something is not provided to properly direct their inherent gregarious impulses."

As a savior of boys, clubs and play grounds are

being conducted to direct their leisure. Wm. L. Butcher, a member of the New York Crime Commission, says that "of the young people whose time is supervised at playgrounds and clubs, only one in one thousand gets into trouble, while the ratio in unsupervised children is one in one hundred." John K. Whittier, Superintendent of Chicago's Boys Clubs, asserts that "there the average boy is thirty-five times more apt to get into trouble than the club product."

The paid labor of the young has had a bad influence in several ways. First it forces them while they are still young to think only of their own interests. They are brought into contact with persons who are rough and indifferent to their well being. They are attracted to the bad habits and grossness of speech of these people because of their strong initiative. Finally, the paid labor of the young makes them more or less independent at an age when they have the greatest need of supervision.

Defective discipline and defective family relationships are found very frequently in a delinquent group.

"A child from a broken home or from a home having defective discipline is more likely to become a criminal than one from a normal home."³

³

Burt, Cyril, The Young Delinquent p.92

One hundred and fifty-three of the two hundred and twenty-two boys studied for a period of twenty months were between thirteen and sixteen years inclusive. Thirty-four delinquents were thirteen years of age, forty-four were sixteen. Although it would seem that these ages furnish most of our delinquent boys, the number of boys studied is too small to permit making generalizations. If this study, however were pursued in other cities, it would be possible to arrive at some definite conclusions.

After a study of delinquent boys covering the crimes they commit, age of each at the time the crime is committed, and the parental conditions in their homes one is better qualified to understand their low scholastic marks and their retarded conditions and wonders, if they are not, after all, mentally defective. Other investigations made of juvenile delinquency have disclosed much feeble-mindedness. Goddard found in a study of one hundred children in the detention home of Newark, New Jersey, Juvenile Court that "67 per cent of them were distinctly feeble-minded."⁴

If juvenile delinquents are mentally deficient and in many cases or feeble-minded, steps should be taken that will correct if possible, this weakness. Some of the

⁴ Goddard, H. H. The Kalakak Family p.57

necessary remedies then would be school systems better fitted to the needs and abilities of such boys. Parks and boys' clubs should be organized and carefully supervised by experts in the field. Illegal street trading and practices and late hour theater and pool-room parties should be stopped.

The recreation statistics for 1927 showed Terre Haute's parks under control of a park board with no paid workers except care takers. There were no volunteer workers. Harry Mulligan who gave the information, reported no playground leadership, no indoor leadership, and no summer camps. In this neglectful way Terre Haute seems to be fostering delinquency by carelessness.

The schools of today should endeavor to cope with the problem of the juvenile delinquent. Every delinquent should form a basis for a case study. The psychologist would study the offense committed, the personality of the offender, and his home environment. After investigating these facts he would be more able to appreciate and account for the act. Knowledge of the offender's past history and family history would give very naturally a deeper insight into the offense.

Following a complete case study of the individual delinquent a school curriculum should be made that would

be adapted to the case. In supervision of the curriculum the case study should be coordinated, making the delinquent a more sociable creature.

The "Bill Of Rights of Children" taken from a speech of Mr. Herbert Hoover, now President Hoover, delivered in 1927 very well sets forth the attitude the nation should take toward her children.

"The ideal to which we should strive is that there shall be no child in America that has not been born under proper conditions, that does not live in hygienic surroundings, that ever suffers from undernutrition, that does not have proper and efficient medical attention and inspection, that does not receive primary instruction in the elements of hygiene and good health; there shall be no child that has not the complete birthright of a sound mind in a sound body and the encouragement to express in fullest measure the spirit within, which is the final endowment of every human being."

IX. APPENDIX

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